



# DIABETES IN ANDERSON COUNTY

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

◆ Diabetes Control Program ◆ Chronic Disease Epidemiology Branch  
Diabetes Initiative of South Carolina

Diabetes mellitus, a chronic disease characterized by elevated blood sugar levels, is a significant contributor to morbidity and mortality in South Carolina and throughout the United States. Diabetes can cause debilitating and costly complications such as blindness, renal failure, lower extremity amputations, and cardiovascular disease. Much of the health and economic burden of diabetes can be averted through known prevention measures.

In 1998, 5.7 percent of South Carolina adults, equivalent to approximately 163,000 adults, reported having been diagnosed with diabetes. Diabetes was the sixth leading cause of death in South Carolina claiming 1,029 lives in 1997 and contributing to another 3,014 deaths. This report presents the burden of diabetes in Anderson county.

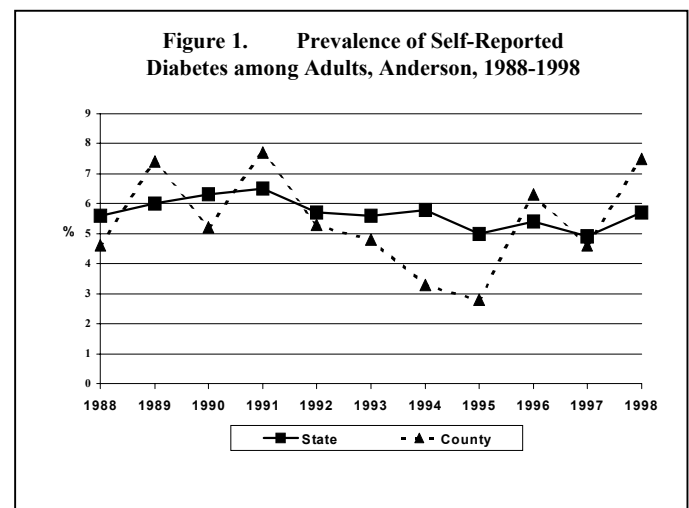
## Behavioral Risk Factors

Table 1 displays the prevalence of major behavioral risk factors for diabetes and its complications in Anderson county in 1998.

Table 1. Prevalence (%) of Behavioral Risk Factors for Diabetes		
	Anderson County	SC
Overweight	56.6	52.3
Current Smokers	23.8	24.7
Physical Inactivity	64.9	61.6
Consuming fruits and vegetables less than 5-A-Day	78.6	78.2
High Cholesterol (1997)	29.9	24.4
Hypertension (1997)	25.5	26.7

## Prevalence

In 1998, there were approximately 9,232 adults (7.5%) aged 18 and older living in Anderson county who have been told by a doctor some time in their life that they had diabetes (Figure 1).



## Morbidity and Complications

In 1997, there were 265 hospital discharges with diabetes as the primary diagnosis among Anderson county residents. During the same year, there was an additional 2,629 hospital discharges with diabetes-related condition. African-Americans had less hospitalizations for diabetes than whites: 74 (27%) for diabetes as the primary diagnosis, and 554 (21%) for diabetes as a related condition.

In 1997, hospital charges for hospitalizations of Anderson county residents having diabetes as primary diagnosis were up to \$1.9 million and \$30.9 million for diabetes as a related condition. The total length of hospital stay for diabetes as the primary

diagnosis was 1,680 days.

Anderson county patients with diabetes who had diabetes-related complications in 1997 included:

- 281 (9.8%) with renal manifestations;
- 68 (2.3%) with lower extremity amputations related to diabetes;
- 64 (2.2%) with diabetic ketoacidosis;
- 147 (5.1%) with renal failure;
- 79 (2.7%) with dialysis.

Adults with diabetes are at increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Out of 2,844 hospitalizations for patient with diabetes, 2,285 (80%) had cardiovascular diseases, and 366 (12.8%) had stroke.

In 1997, there were 238 emergency room (ER) visits for diabetes as the primary diagnosis, among which 80 (33%) were for African-American patients. In addition, there were 1,169 ER visits for diabetes as a related condition. Total ER charges were \$147,514 for diabetes as the primary diagnosis for Anderson county residents.

## Mortality

In 1997, diabetes was listed as the underlying cause of death for 80 residents of Anderson county. This is an age-standardized mortality rate of 33.5 per 100,000 population, close to the state average of 39.2 per 100,000 population (Figure 2). Diabetes was listed as a contributing cause in 146 deaths in Anderson county; a standardized mortality rate of 62 per 100,000 population.

A total of 508 potential years of life were lost in 1997 because people died prematurely from diabetes, among which 267 years (52%) occurred in white men. White men had the highest standardized mortality (77 per 100,000 population) among all race-sex groups.

## Anderson County Resources

Tommy Johnson, RPH, CDE  
Program Coordinator  
Anderson Area Medical Center  
800 North Street  
Anderson, SC 29621  
(864) 261-1549

Elizabeth Stokes, RN, BSN  
Program Coordinator  
DHEC Home Health Appalachia I  
220 McGee Road  
Anderson, SC 29625  
(864) 260-5617

Barbara Callahan  
Diabetes Care Center  
1120 Grove Rd., Suite C  
Greenville, SC 29605  
(864) 242-6462 or (864) 455-3262

**Figure 2. Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate of Diabetes, Anderson, 1992-1997**

